

Message Text

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15

ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO AMCONSUL SURABAYA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8523

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MILI, PINR, ID

SUBJ: BIO DATA ON BRIG. GEN. WITARMIN

REF: SURABAYA 0356

1. EMBASSY KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT GEN. WITARMIN, EXCEPT THAT HIS CAREER TO DATE SUGGESTS HE IS COMPETENT LINE COMMANDER. BORN 1925, KERTOSONO, KEDIRI, EAST JAVA. CAREER INFANTRY OFFICER, STARTING WITH MEMBERSHIP IN JAPANESE-SPONSORED PETA MILITARY ORGANIZATION IN 1945 (HE WAS SECTION COMMANDER). FOUGHT WITH INDONESIAN ARMY THROUGH REVOLUTION, AND ROSE THROUGH RANKS OF INFANTRY COMMANDS BECOMING COLONEL AND COMMANDER OF INFANTRY BRIGADE PRIOR TO 1965 COUP. IN 1966 BECAME COMMANDER OF 18TH AIRBORNE BRIGADE IN MALANG, EAST JAVA, AND IN 1968 PLAYED PROMINENT ROLE IN ARMY'S "OPERATION TRISULA" CAMPAIGN AGAINST PKI IN SOUTH BLITAR FOR WHICH HE DECORATED BY SUHARTO AT 1968 ARMED FORCES DAY. BECAME DEPUTY COMMANDER OF KOSTRAD (STRATEGIC RESERVE, SUHARTO'S 1965 UNIT) IN 1969. PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL IN 1970, AND ASSUMED COMMAND OF SPECIAL FORCES COMMAND IN OCT. 1970.

2. PRESS REPORTS EARLY 1975 SUGGESTED WITARMIN SLOTTED TO TAKE OVER KODAM II IN MEDAN, ASSIGNMENT WHICH DID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT MATERIALIZE PERHAPS DUE TO PROSPECT OF MORE PRESTIGIOUS

KODAM VIII JOB.

3. GEN. WITARMIN SMOKES AND HAS AN OCCASIONAL BEER;
HOBBIES INCLUDE SPORT PARACHUTING AND HUNTING. OTHERWISE
HIS PERSONAL HABITS AND CHARACTERISTICS UNKNOWN TO US.
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